Old age homes in Madhya Pradesh

†2231. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the year 2004-05, 19 proposals for sanction for running old age homes were sent to Central Government by Madhya Pradesh Government, which included 14 for day care centres, 2 for construction of old-age home building and 2 for setting up mobile units;

(b) what is the number of proposals approved to and the status of the remaining out of these; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) All the proposals received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh were examined but could not be sanctioned.

Welfare of senior citizens

2232. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that according to the 2001 census there were 7,66,22,321 senior citizens above the age of 60 years and by 2016 their population would cross 10 per cent of the total population of the country;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken, so far, in respect of senior citizens, encompassing legal, social, health and security besides strengthening the bonds between the young and old to enable the youth to benefit from the wisdom of senior veteran elders; and

(c) by when Government propose to bring forward suitable legislation before Parliament in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The population of senior citizens is not likely to cross 10 percent of the total population by 2016.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The Government has adopted National Policy on Older Persons, which *interalia* addresses the issues related to the legal, social, health problems of the elderly and development of inter-generational bonding.

(c) The Ministry is proposing to introduce the legislation during the current session of the Parliament.

Welfare schemes for poor

2233. SHRI TARIQ ANSWAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that about 25 per cent population in the country is still poor;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking for improving the conditions of the poor; and

(c) what special projects Government have started or are going to start in future, for the welfare of the poor people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN):(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy to improve the living standard of the poor: (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive, (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti-poverty programmes.

(c) The government is running number of programmes including Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGYS), Indira Awas Yojana, Pradhan, Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP). In addition, the Government is implementing welfare schemes for the educational, economic and social empowerment of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes.

Rehabilitation of mentally ill

2234. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the special efforts made by Government to encourage NGO's to take up services and rehabilitation for the persons with mental illness; and